



## COVID-19 VACCINE SCHEDULING PROCESS

Effective February 3, 2021

8:15 AM

On February 1, individuals aged 65 and older became eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine in Idaho. There are over 30,000 people in the 65 and older age group in Eastern Idaho Public Health's (EIPH) eight-county region (Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties). At the present time, there are approximately 2,500 doses of vaccine allocated to nearly [40 provider locations](#) throughout the region weekly; and unfortunately, the demand for the vaccine far exceeds our current supply of vaccine.

In an effort to make the process for obtaining an appointment as simple as possible and to provide equitable distribution of vaccine to all individuals desiring it in Idaho's current [priority groups](#), EIPH will assign available vaccination appointments through a computer generated random selection process to all individuals who register on our waiting list by Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Over the course of the following 10 days, appointments will be assigned to individuals and **EIPH WILL CALL OR TEXT TO INFORM INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR APPOINTMENT**, which could range from February 15 through the end of March. *To allow us time to make all these notifications, we would ask that you NOT call our office before February 22 to check on your appointment.* Thank you for your patience with this process.

If you register on the waiting list **AFTER** February 11, you can expect a call or text from EIPH between February 22-26 to notify you of your assigned appointment. Again, please do not call our office before this time, as we will have not yet made your appointment.

### HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE WAITING LIST:

If you previously signed up for our notification list, **THERE IS NOTHING ELSE YOU HAVE TO DO.** On Wednesday, February 3, a call or text will be sent to everyone already signed up on the list to confirm your previous registration.

Otherwise, register online at [www.EIPH.Idaho.gov](http://www.EIPH.Idaho.gov) or call EIPH at 208-533-3223 and we will be happy to assist you with the process. As we expect our call volume to be high, we would ask that you leave a message and your call will be returned within one business day.

**WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN EIPH CALLS/TEXTS YOU TO NOTIFY YOU OF YOUR ASSIGNED APPOINTMENT:**

- **Text Message**: You have been selected to receive a COVID-19 vaccine on (date). Please expect a phone call from EIPH staff from 208-533-3223 by 5:00 pm today to provide you with the details of your appointment. If you do NOT need the appointment, please reply "NO" and we will remove you from our waiting list.
- **Call**: EIPH staff will call you to let you know of the available appointment and confirm your acceptance. The call will come from 208-533-3223.

**APPOINTMENT ASSIGNMENTS:**

Spouses (over 65) will be given the opportunity to schedule appointments on the same day and time.

**PREPARING FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT:**

- You will receive an appointment reminder call or text the day before your appointment.
- Face coverings are required when attending your appointment.
- Please wear a short-sleeved shirt to your appointment.
- Take your photo ID.
- If you have Medicare, take your red, white, and blue Medicare card with you—not your Medicare Advantage or supplement.
- If you have other medical insurance, take your insurance card with you.
- You will be provided with paperwork to fill out when you arrive. OR, you may download it [HERE](#), fill it out in advance, and take it with you to your appointment.

**WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR APPOINTMENT:**

- You will receive a vaccination card that says the date and which COVID-19 vaccine you were given as well as the provider who administered it.
- Allow time to stay at the vaccination site for 15-30 minutes after getting vaccinated to make sure you don't have a reaction that needs medical attention.
- Before you leave the clinic, your appointment for your second dose of vaccine will be scheduled for you.
- You should also receive a fact sheet with additional information about the COVID-19 vaccine you are getting. There are fact sheets for each COVID-19 vaccine with information about the risks and benefits of that particular vaccine.

## **AFTER YOUR VACCINATION**

- COVID-19 vaccines may cause mild to moderate reactions, including pain or swelling at the injection site, muscle pain, headaches, and mild to moderate fevers. These are normal signs the body is producing an immune response. You may report adverse events following vaccination at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>.
- It takes time to build protection and immunity after getting a vaccine. A person is considered immune two weeks after receiving the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- If the vaccine you're getting requires two doses, you should get both doses unless a healthcare provider or doctor tells you not to.
- If you have not received 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested.
- While scientists learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it is up to everyone, including vaccinated people, to continue to do all the other measures to help stop this pandemic: wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from people who don't live in your home, wash your hands often, and stay home when you're sick.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**1. What happens if there are extra doses of vaccine at the end of a clinic?**

EIPH will ensure that NO dose of COVID-19 vaccine is wasted. If there are extra doses at the end of a clinic, people scheduled for the first appointments at that location's next clinic will be called to see if they are able to come in immediately to receive the vaccine.

**2. What would make you not able to receive a vaccine?**

- If you have received any other vaccination in the past 14 days
- You are currently sick with COVID

If you are scheduled for an appointment but have to be deferred for the reasons stated above, we will work to get you scheduled at a later date.

**3. Is there a cost to receive the vaccine?**

The vaccine is provided at no cost, but an administration fee will be charged. Please bring your insurance card or Medicare Card (the red, white, and blue one) with you to your appointment. There will be no out-of-pocket cost to you to receive the vaccine.

**4. Can I choose which vaccine I receive?**

EIPH will not know which vaccine will be offered at each clinic until the week of the clinic. Therefore, since we are scheduling appointments weeks in advance, we will NOT be able to tell you which vaccine will be offered at your particular clinic.

**5. If someone has had COVID-19, do they have to wait to get the vaccine?**

NO. However, we have heard anecdotal reports that people who have had COVID in recent weeks have more side effects from the vaccine.

**6. If someone has had an infusion of drugs (monoclonal antibody treatment), do they have to wait 90 days to get the vaccine?**

YES

**7. If someone received their first dose of vaccine at another provider, can they get their second dose at EIPH?**

NO. They should contact their original provider for their second dose of vaccine. This is because providers are automatically shipped the second doses for the first doses they receive.

**8. When are EIPH clinics being held in each county?**

An anticipated clinic schedule is posted on our [website](#). However, additional clinics may be added if more vaccine is received.

**9. Can I call my county's local EIPH office to schedule an appointment?**

NO. All COVID-19 vaccine scheduling is being handled by EIPH's Idaho Falls office. If you have questions, you may call 208-533-3223 (or toll free at 1-855-533-3160, extension 223).